

Revisiting the Blue Ribbon Panel: Recommendations on Ocean Acidification



Chapter 4 – Reduce Emissions of Carbon Dioxide

What did the Blue Ribbon Panel say about carbon dioxide emissions in 2012?

Emissions of carbon dioxide must be significantly reduced to prevent irreversible harm to marine organisms and coastal ecosystems. Meanwhile, the real and present consequences of acidification require that we act now to reduce, manage, and adapt to impacts of acidification. Given that the deposition of atmospheric carbon dioxide into the oceans is the largest source of acidifying pollution, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommended actions for Washington to continue to lead in the adoption of policies and practices that address the multiple risks posed by carbon dioxide accumulation in the atmosphere.

What's been done since 2012, what's next, and should we revise the recommended actions?

Proposed changes to action language are underlined. New Actions are shown in **bold** text.

Strategy 4.1 – Take action to reduce global, national, and local emissions of carbon dioxide

ACTION <u>with proposed changes</u>	PROGRESS SINCE 2012	WHAT'S NEXT
4.1.1 [KEA] Work with international, national, and regional partners to advocate for a comprehensive strategy to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.	Participating as a member of the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC), an international-regional coalition with commitments to promoting a low carbon economy.	Continue participation in the PCC and the OA Alliance.
4.1.2 Implement additional actions <u>to reduce carbon emissions recommended by the Climate Action Team</u> where such actions would reduce acidification of Washington's marine waters.	Progress contingent on results of Action 4.1.3. In Dec. 2016, Dept. of Ecology revised the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction limits to be more aggressive. In 2017, Ecology's Clean Air Rule began requiring businesses and organizations that are responsible for large amounts of greenhouse gases to gradually reduce their greenhouse gas emissions over time.	Continue enforcement of Ecology's Clean Air Rule.
4.1.3 Review data to determine if there is a causal relationship between local air emissions and local marine water acidity. If the data confirms such a relationship, take actions to reduce local air emissions that contribute to acidification.	No work to date.	For discussion.

ACTION <u>with proposed changes</u>	PROGRESS SINCE 2012	WHAT'S NEXT
4.1.4 Enlist key leaders and [KEA] policymakers to act as ambassadors advocating for carbon dioxide emissions reductions and protection of Washington's marine resources from acidification.	In 2014, Gov. Inslee adopted Executive Order 14-04 which created the Carbon Emissions Reduction Taskforce and recommendations on the design and implementation of carbon emission limits and a market mechanisms program for Washington. Gov. Inslee also proposed legislation in 2015 to create a carbon tax and carbon market.	For discussion.

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